FROM THE PRINCIPAL
Welcome back to our new school year. We extend a special welcome to all new families who have joined us at North Rocks. We hope that during 2015 your family will have the opportunity to join in some of the school’s activities. The Diary Dates above include the meeting times for both Parents Social Club and P&C Association. Our parent organizations support the school financially, and provide important parent viewpoints on school issues. Our meetings are friendly and provide a good way for new parents to join the school community. You will be made most welcome and your concerns treated as important.

Our classes have been formed for the year and I am happy to report that the structure is most likely to remain. The only issue which may impact will be a significant change to enrolments in kindergarten. Each year our school enrolments determine the need to form composite or multi-age classes in some years. Our approach to this is guided by the following generalizations:

Multi-year (composite) classes are formed when the number of students enrolled in a year cannot be accommodated in single-year classes. When placing students into multi-year classes the school gives consideration to factors about each student such as history of placement in multi-year classes, work habits and friendship groups. We try to have every child in a year group experience a multi-age class at some time during their education. In some grade groups students may experience this formation several times during their primary schooling. We try not to place a child in a multi-age class for two years running.

Regarding class placement we are always happy to talk to parents however, the placement of students into classes is not something that is changed upon parent request. It is the school’s responsibility to determine class placements.

Important Notes on the website
Important information and notes are published on our website. Students are not given individual permission notes for activities they are expected to download from the net, print and return. Links to this information is contained in the table above right each week. Please “click” on the link in the table below to select the important notices relevant to your child.

Important change to attendance.
No longer will exemption forms be provided for students going on extended holidays. The Department of Education and Communities has changed its policy. Clearly the DEC is trying to discourage parents taking students out of school during school term. Parents intending to withdraw your child during school term should discuss this with the Principal.

FOOD ALLERGY ALERT
To help minimise the risk of life threatening allergic reactions we ask all parents to refrain from packing foods that contain peanuts or tree nuts in lunch boxes. Help us protect our students.
STAFFING
We welcome Mr Moran and Miss Lingley to our teaching staff. We will also welcome back Mrs Barnett, who will be returning in various capacities from maternity leave. Miss Lingley will take Miss Carney’s class on Fridays. Miss Carney is the school’s computer coordinator and works on Fridays maintaining the school network, troubleshooting and assisting teachers in their use and understanding of technology. Mrs Armitage has decided to retire effective 3/02/2015. We wish Mrs Armitage all the best and thank her for her years of service and wish her well for the future.

MEET THE TEACHER
On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings 24-25 February, teachers will hold information sessions to provide parents with the opportunity to find out about class programs and procedures. The times for these meetings will be advertised separately. Parents are encouraged to seek interviews with the class teachers when issues of concern arise. Please arrange appointments at mutually acceptable times. Following the class information sharing sessions on each evening, parents are invited to stay and join the teaching staff for a social function.

In coming days information will be provided to parents regarding student texts and other classroom needs for 2015. Students will be supplied with classroom exercise books. We intend to commence the use of textbooks on Monday 16 February 2015. Copies of invoices for textbooks and the term’s activities will be issued soon. We ask that parents respond to the payment requests promptly as the school must meet the immediate cost of payment for some of these items. The invoice will include an opportunity to make payment of the P&C contribution which the school collects on behalf of the P&C. **Parents should take care when making P&C contributions to indicate whether they wish the contribution to be to the P&C General Fund or to the tax deductible Building Fund where a separate receipt is issued.**

As in 2014, this year there will be a separate ICT levy to assist the school meet the large cost purchasing of ICT equipment including tablets for student use to compliment the wireless technology support by the P&C in 2013. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Next week a set of permissions slips associated with your child’s work within the school will be distributed. The photography permissions will affect lots of activities including school photographs, excursions and performances. We use student images to celebrate their achievements via the newsletter, as stimulus for writing and talking and listening activities and for promotion of the school through the school website and annual school report. Permission is also sought for students to use Don Moore Reserve, at the rear of the school and for the teacher to take the students on local walks when the teaching content requires.

Attached to the permissions note is a request on behalf of the P&C to involve your children in their very successful Class Information Booklet which will provide contact information to all school families. Your participation is encouraged. We wish you and your families a successful year in 2015.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
Our annual school photos are being taken on Monday 16 February. It is important that each child is dressed in the correct school uniform including blue headbands and hair pieces as well as clean black shoes. If you wish your children to have a combined sibling photo please ask your eldest child to collect a sibling photo envelope from the school office. Payment methods are clearly marked on the reverse of the envelope. Please make payment to The School Photographer and not to the school. Photo envelopes will be distributed next week.

SCHOOL CAR PARK
Just a reminder that the school car park is not available for drop off or parent parking. I guess most of you would know about the situation at Carlingford Public School late last year. It is a sad reminder that cars and kids don’t mix. The only access to the school driveway, other than teachers, is for the student assisted transport operators dropping off and collecting students in the support classes. I would ask that all parents abide by these guidelines.

SCHOOL FEES AND CONTRIBUTIONS
If any parents experiences difficulty paying for textbooks etc. are reminded that they can speak to Mr Harker at any time. These matters are kept confidential and some financial support, although limited, is available.

NUT MINIMISATION POLICY
Please read the nut minimisation policy on page 6 of this newsletter. Please help us make our school safe for students with anaphylaxis.

New Family Welcome BBQ
Friday 20 February from 5pm
Staffing 2015

Autism K-6C Mrs Clark AP Support; Mrs Hagivasilis
Autism K-6H Miss Hayman; Mrs Swadling
IO Class K-6M Mrs Mahony; Mrs Pozorski
Kinder KD Miss Deane
KH Mrs Harris AP Relieving
KN Ms Neville
KV Miss Van Ryswyk
KJ Ms Young
Year 1 1K Mrs Kent
1V Miss Valenti
1J Miss Van Roon
1E Ms Esquivel
Year 2 1/2AA Mrs Abbott Atchison AP
2M Mrs Maharaj
2W Miss Walker
2S Mrs Welsby
Year 3 3M Miss Moncrieff
3O Mrs Olliffe
3W Mrs Watson
Year 4 4D Mr Diaz
4C Miss Carney; Miss Lingley (Friday)
4/5J Miss Mah
4P Mrs Pollitt AP
Year 5 5M Mrs Mitchell
5R Mr Robertson
5W Miss Whyte
Year 6 6C Mr Cummins
6D Mrs Durrington AP relieving
6M Mrs Martin
6L Mr Moran
RFF Mrs Andrews; Miss Lingley; Mrs Dalton
ESL Mrs Artlett, Mrs Richmond
Library Mrs Bodlay, Mrs Bezkorovainy
Reading Support Mrs Shand (Mon-Tues), Mrs Barnett (Wed &Thurs)
Learning Support Mrs Dooley (Tues & Wed)
School Counsellor Mr Byrne (Tues, Wed & Fri)
Office Manager Mrs Parry
Admin Officers Mrs Webb; Mrs Silver
SLSO Mrs Lewington; Mrs Gillard; Mrs Laurie; Mrs Harman
General Assistant Mr Polglase
Deputy Principal Mr Moth
Principal Mr Harker

Meet our new staff members:
• Miss Lingley (RFF & 4C)
• Miss Williams (Casual relief)
• Mr Moran (6L)

Download the ‘School Stream’ App for your smart device!!

Mr Cummins and Mrs Olliffe are on long service leave and will return on Tuesday 10 February.
FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

The first week of school for a new year often brings with it excitement, apprehension, fear, tears and fun… and that’s just for the teachers! This week I had the immense pleasure of welcoming back our ‘old’ families and the many new faces who have joined the North Rocks community. The forming of classes went smoothly despite difficult weather and walking around each of the rooms over the last three days I have been amazed at how quickly students have settled back into positive learning routines and habits – demonstrating that once again children are wired to enjoy developing new skills and acquiring new information.

Chess Coaching
North Rocks PS offers a range of extra-curricular activities to enhance the schooling experience of its students. This year we continue our social, instructional and competitive chess programs. Students are permitted to play chess socially in the library during lunch times, can enrol in coaching session which take place each Tuesday, or play as part of a team against other schools in the local competition. I will give further information about competitive chess in future weeks. For those would like to enrol in chess coaching, please download and complete the attached form and return it to me as soon as possible.

Summer PSSA Trials Years 3-6
North Rocks PS is one of 17 member schools of the Castle Hill Primary Schools Sports Association (PSSA). The PSSA organises weekly sporting competitions throughout the year, split into summer and winter calendars. Next week coaches will be holding trials at lunch times and in a designated sports session on Tuesday to select students in years 3-6 for various teams. Students will need to listen carefully at morning assemblies for announcements of when trials will be held. It should be noted that selection for teams is based on merit, with good sportsmanship a prerequisite. The cost for participation in a PSSA program is approximately $70. Students are encouraged to try out for teams that interest them; though they should be prepared not to be selected. The majority of primary students will participate in a school sport program on Friday mornings this term and not participate in PSSA competition. The school sport program is more rounded, offering students a range of sporting activities and developing skills in a variety of disciplines. Additionally, students involved in school sport will be engaged in more physical activity than those in PSSA, as travel on buses to venues only allows relatively brief matches for those involved in PSSA.

School Stream App
North Rocks PS now has a smart phone application. Parents are encouraged to visit Google Play or the App Store and download ‘School Stream’. The app offers real time notices and alerts as well an events calendar and other features which may be of interest. Please take the time to download School Stream so that you can be kept up to date with all the happenings of North Rocks PS.

Welcome Xavier Petre
Congratulation to Olivia and Brook Petre on the arrival of Xavier William Ronald, born on January 27th. What a beautiful family!

Tom Moth
Deputy Principal
P&C NEWS: President: Anthony Macarthur; parramaca@gmail.com; 0431 280 748

Uniform Shop
A huge Thank you to Karla, Chad, Merrin and Jo for coming early to help in the shop on our very busy first day back this year. Our uniform shop said goodbye to some wonderful helpers in 2014 who have gone off to high school. We really need some more volunteers to help us on Friday mornings from 8.15 am till about 9.30 am. If you can spare even half an hour, we would love you to join our happy team of parents and grandparents.
To join our roster please call Karla Bartsch on 0405202620.
- Kerri

Canteen on the Rocks
Welcome back to the new school year, I hope everyone has had an enjoyable and relaxing holidays. Our new canteen menu starts this week and the new menu can be found on the school website, a hard copy will be coming home so please check the kid’s bags! Our volunteer roster is looking healthy again for this year, thank you to all of those that have volunteered. We still have some spots available on our roster across several days. If you are interested just drop by the canteen or email Mel at bellablooms@bigpond.com.
The canteen is a great environment and you do not have to do any jobs that you feel uncomfortable with, the hours are 9-1.30pm once a month. If you cannot commit to once a month from 9-1.30pm then we would love to have your help for an hour or two. The environment is a very happy and friendly one and the kids absolutely love seeing their parents/grandparents/carers etc helping in the canteen.
We look forward to another successful year in the canteen, Mel and Gail are busy planning special events that will happen throughout the year. All proceeds go directly to the P&C and benefit our children, the canteen had a very profitable year last year and made a profit of just over $10,000.00. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers involved in the canteen as we could not have achieved that result without your help and dedication.
- Lisa

Social Club
Welcome back to the 2015 school year! Hope you all had a fun and relaxing holiday and are ready for an exciting new year. The Social Club already has lots of plans for some fun events this year so we hope you can all come along and join in the fun!
- Tea and Tissues - Tuesday 3rd February – The Social Club will provide morning tea for Kindergarten parents. Please come along to chat to new parents and offer support.
- Social Club Meeting - Wednesday 11 February - Our first meeting will be in the infants playground at 9.00am. This is a good place for new parents to meet other parents and find out what your children will be up to at school this year! If you haven’t been before, why don’t you come along, have a coffee and a chat, Pre-schoolers are also welcome. I look forward to meeting some new parents then.
- We will have a social club meeting & dinner once a term for those parents who cannot attend morning meetings. The first dinner meeting for term 1 will be Friday 6th March 2015 at Basil & Lime in Westfields North Rocks at 7.00pm. Please let the office know if you will be attending.
- Kindy and new parents welcome BBQ - 20 February – the Social Club will host this event. Information and RSVP will come out soon. If anyone can help please let the office know and I will be in touch.
- Carol

Harmony Day / International Food Day
Most of you would be aware that every year our school celebrates our multicultural heritage on Harmony Day (Thursday 2nd April). On this special day, the P&C host an International Food Day – school families are invited to come to school – visit the classrooms, watch the colourful Hat Parade, and share in a picnic lunch of beautiful International Cuisine. The parent community are very involved in this day – as spectators of the children’s activities – and consumers of great food. A very generous group of parents work very hard to bring this fabulous feast to our school community – AND YOU CAN HELP. If you are interested in joining an “International Food Team” this year – please contact me asap at vic-ki.gillard@optusnet.com.au. We need to get ourselves organised as soon as possible – the time will get away very quickly & there are deadlines we will need to meet to make this day a success. Last year we had Korean, Filipino, Italian, Lebanese, Aussie BBQ, & American Dessert. I will shortly be contacting last year’s team leaders in the hope that they will participate again this year. Sadly – last year we missed out on both Chinese & Indian cuisines (which we had enjoyed in previous years). It would be so good to have both those cultures represented this year – a significant proportion of our students are from these ethnic backgrounds – and we would all love to sample these delicious cuisines.

Hope to hear from you soon,
Vicki Gillard
NUT MINIMISATION POLICY

North Rocks Public School is committed to providing a safe environment that meets the special needs of our students. Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening.

Several students at North Rocks Public School have severe anaphylactic allergies triggered by nuts. The key to preventing an anaphylactic reaction is to avoid exposure to the trigger. North Rocks Public School has developed a nut minimisation policy, in line with the Department of Education and Training’s Duty of Care Policy. Emergency response plans are in place for all school activities.

It is possible to minimise the risk factors within the school environment with parent/carer assistance by adopting the following strategies:

Please do not send nuts or peanuts to school. There is an increased risk of other food allergies in peanut allergic children and because of the risk of cross contamination; it is usually recommended that peanut allergic people avoid all nuts and sesame seeds.

Please do not send foods containing nuts or peanuts to school. In particular peanut butter, hazelnut spread (Nutella), certain muesli bars and biscuits containing nuts. This applies to items with nuts as a listed ingredient, but does not apply to those foods labelled ‘may contain traces of nuts’.

No nut oils such as peanut oil.

Please avoid nuts and peanuts in birthday cakes or treats that may be brought to school.

Please encourage thorough washing of hands and face, if children have eaten these foods before coming to school.

Provide drink containers and lunch boxes which are clearly labelled with the name of the child for whom they are intended.

Discourage any trading or sharing of food.

Continue vigilance when there is a change from usual routines e.g. excursions, family picnic day’s at school, sports carnivals or discos.

A continuing awareness raising program will be provided through a range of strategies. Support for this initiative will be demonstrated through:

Teaching the children about the need for appropriate health and hygiene, when raising awareness of the range of allergic reactions that may affect people in the community.

Highlighting values such as tolerance, understanding and an appreciation for the uniqueness of others and their needs, through our values education programs.

Reminders of our allergy friendly approach which will regularly appear in the school newsletters.

Thank you in anticipation for your support of this initiative.
COMMUNITY USERS

Community groups using our premises include the following activities:

**Goshin Khan Karate**
Thurs 6.30 - redentorleano@gmail.com

**GKR Karate**
Wed 6.30 & Sat 10.30am
mlendrum@gkrkarate.com

**Key Martial Arts** - Wed 3pm (rear hall)

**Mandarin Classes** - Wed 3pm
Jenny Shen 0432 876 961

**Keyboard Lessons**
Thur 12.45 – 1.30pm VIP Music – 9411 3122

**Dance** - various - lee@dl dstudios.com.au

**Table Tennis** - Wednesday mornings 8am
Paul Zhao - 0411 205 398

**Speech & Drama** - Friday afternoons
Angela 0402 439 250

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**Vocal Improvement & Effective Communication Skills**
North Rocks Public School 2015

The Vocal Improvement & Effective Communication Skills course on offer at North Rocks Public School is designed to enhance the speech, language, vocal and presentation skills of participating students.

Research has shown that it is important that students engage in this form of training to improve their verbal communication skills to further develop academic and social processes.

**Lessons commence Friday 13th February in the Science Room at the following times:**

- Kindy: Friday after school 3.20-3.50pm
- Year 1: Friday after school 3.50-4.20pm
- Year 2: Friday after school 3.50-4.20pm
- Year 3: Friday after school 4.30-5.00pm
- Year 4: Friday after school 4.30-5.00pm
- Year 5: Friday after school 5.00-5.30pm
- Year 6: Friday after school 5.00-5.30pm
- Seniors: Friday 5.30-6.00pm

If you would like to participate please contact Angela Tesoriero on 0402 439 250 or info@fixaustralia.com.au

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**Tennis Coaching Programs 2015**

Various tennis coaching programs are available including group, private and MLC Hotshots, catering for beginners to advanced standards.

*FREE introductory lesson to new enrolments from North Rocks Public School in Term 1 2015

Enrolments and enquiries to Scott Gregson Tennis Advantage on 0414554612 (North Rocks Royal Institute Courts)
Play Hockey in 2015

Great non-contact mixed girls & boys team sport
Small field “Minkey” games for U5 - U9
Mixed junior comps U11, U13, U15
Play on world class artificial turf facility at Pennant Hills Park
Great for fitness as well as maintaining cricket & baseball skills

Northern District Hockey Association
Pennant Hills Park, Britannia Street, Pennant Hills
Further information:
Adrian Wilson 0419 299 808
Robert Nicoll 0438 119 729

Rego forms & information at www.ndhockey.com.au

Learn Music on Keyboard at North Rocks Public School
Enrolment

- 45min weekly group lesson
- Fun musical games * Ensemble playing
- Musical theory * Practical skills
- Instrument not required initially
- Competitive rate - $25 per session
- Convenient at-school venue

Call: 9411 3122 to enrol
(office hours during school term)

www.learnmusicsatschool.com.au

Give your child competitive advantage in the ‘Asian Century’ by learning Mandarin and Chinese culture! ChiFUNese is a leading Mandarin program held at more than 20 schools around Sydney. The innovative program is student-centric and game-based. Email for a FREE trial lesson at North Rocks

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